

NEWS RELEASE

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South Island Prosperity Project announces two more First Nations members join organization

Victoria, BC — The South Island Prosperity Project (SIPP) announced today that two more Vancouver Island First Nations have joined the organization. The addition of Scia'new First Nation (Beecher Bay First Nation) and Malahat First Nation brings the total number of First Nations participating in SIPP to seven.

As the economic development partnership for Greater Victoria, part of SIPP's mandate is to support First Nation-driven economic development activities by collaborating with Nations, sharing best practices, and creating a platform for broader engagement.

"We look forward to our member partnership creating real solutions to the challenges we face in Scia'new Nation. We are building the sustainable village development of Spirit Bay. Like other parts of the region we are seeking to create a strong economy, robust community infrastructure and increased services in our community while ensuring we don't lose the things that make us a unique and beautiful place to live. Transportation is a primary concern for us, with limited and expensive options being our only current resource. The SIPP model of regional collaboration among all members aligns with our goals and hopes for the future," said Chief Russ Chipps.

Malahat Nation Councillor, George Harry, also believes SIPP's mandate is well aligned with the priorities of the Nation. "Malahat Nation has some of the most spectacular, undeveloped, waterfront lands. As we develop these lands, we will build a strong, sustainable economy for our Nation and the region. We are keen on building relationships with local communities and businesses. We believe our new membership to the South Island Prosperity Project is a positive step, as we both have similar goals."

Emilie de Rosenroll, CEO of SIPP, says "SIPP is pleased to welcome our newest members Scia'new First Nation and Malahat First Nation. Supporting First Nation-led economic development initiatives is one of SIPP's priorities and a key metric of our success. We look forward to collaborating with our new partners."

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ABOUT SOUTH ISLAND PROSPERITY PROJECT

The South Island Prosperity Project (SIPP) is the economic development organization for Greater Victoria, B.C., comprised of 50 members, including 10 local governments, seven First Nations, three post-secondary institutions, seven industry associations and non-profits, and 23 major employers, all working together to bolster our region's economic and social prosperity. This will happen by catalyzing the creation of high-quality, household-sustaining jobs, so that more families can afford to live, work and build a life here.

SIPP's mission is to facilitate and promote the development of a strong, regionally diversified economy on South Vancouver Island. www.southislandprosperity.ca.